

The Vision For Hamilton County's Future



Community COMPASS (Hamilton County's Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies) is a long-range plan that seeks to address mutual goals related to physical, economic, and social issues among the 49 communities within Hamilton County. Through a collective shared vision for the future based on the wishes and dreams of thousands of citizens, Hamilton County now has direction to chart its course into the 21st century. The Vision contained within this document forms the basis for the next steps in the planning process: a state of the county assessment identifying trends along with indicators to track their progress; initiatives and strategies that provide measurable ways to achieve the Vision; and action plans designating who, how, and when the strategies will be implemented. All these components comprise the Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies.

In developing a broad vision with broad support, **Community COMPASS** will help ensure that trends are anticipated, challenges are addressed, priorities are focused, and our collective future is planned and achieved strategically over the next 20 to 30 years. Through an in-depth analysis of all aspects of the County, the multi-year **Community COMPASS** process will result in a comprehensive plan - the first such plan for Hamilton County since 1964.

The Planning Partnership has been instrumental in launching the **Community COMPASS** plan. The Partnership, a groundbreaking committee of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, is comprised of government, civic and private organizations, and individuals focused on planning our future.

What's Happened So Far . . .

In 2001, **Community COMPASS** identified the collective wishes and dreams for Hamilton County's future through 11 Community Forums. Then, on January 12, 2002, more than 1,300 people came together at the first Countywide Town Meeting to validate the Vision and set the course for Hamilton County's future. Four goals emerged:

- Assure Economic Prosperity
- Build Collaborative Decision Making
- Embrace Diversity and Equity
- Balance Development and the Environment

In the months since the County-Wide Town Meeting, COMPASS Action Teams (CATs) and the Planning Partnership have refined objectives and strategies that correlate with these goals. Hamilton County's Vision into the 21st century includes the vision statements shown below, along with the four goals and related objectives on the next page. The Vision should be viewed through the four lenses of the goals since each provides important considerations and direction.

Vision

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

A strong sense of community (within a county-wide framework) with increased public involvement and influence in local and county decision making, that encourages participation by all people in community building, where inclusiveness is embraced and volunteerism is encouraged.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Quality of life improvements through improved safety services, community beautification, and well planned and maintained comprehensive infrastructure with consideration of the impact on the built and natural environments.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

More and improved, accessible recreational and cultural and entertainment activities and facilities (including parks and greenspace) that open opportunities for people of varying ethnicities and ages throughout the county (urban, suburban, rural) to improve the quality of life.

ECONOMY AND LABOR MARKET

A globally competitive and diverse economy that provides job opportunities for all county residents, attractions for visitors, and makes best use of our existing communities and resources.

EDUCATION

Quality educational opportunities throughout the County in learning environments that are safe, secure and provide diverse curriculum and cross-cultural learning opportunities to promote vocational and academic success for all ages.

ENVIRONMENT

Natural resources including, but not limited to, air, greenspace, rivers, hillsides, and wildlife are preserved, restored and managed to enhance the unique character of the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Clean, safe communities with inclusive populations, economic opportunities and open communication.

GOVERNANCE

Effective and efficient local government that acts proactively and cooperatively across political boundaries with elected, appointed and community leaders responsive to and accessible by all citizens.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Affordable, quality, community based services and facilities that address the needs of all residents.

HOUSING

A mix of residential choices throughout the county that provides an opportunity for home ownership across a broad range of economic levels including all lifestyles and age groups, that serves to preserve architecturally and historically significant areas including revitalized communities.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

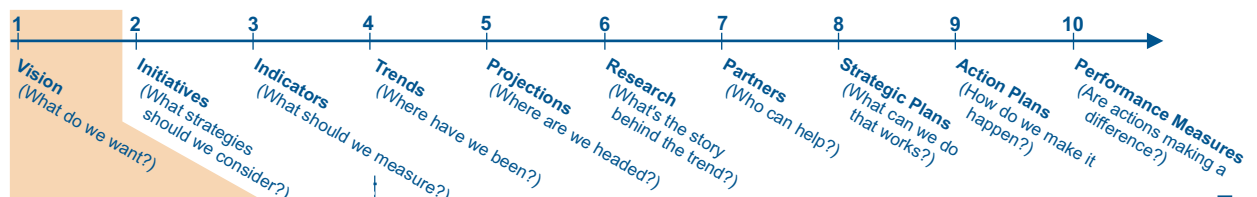
Well-planned, controlled growth that, in the context of the greater region, balances downtown, neighborhood and community development with open space and natural areas to encourage revitalization of existing communities, and aid in economic and racial integration.

MOBILITY

Accessible, efficient and economical regional travel. Clean, safe, multi-modal transportation choices including mass transit, bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, and vehicular travel to reduce traffic congestion.

COMPASS Components

 This report.



What Happens Next . . .

In order for this plan to make a difference, it must attract champions who are willing to put its ideas into action. At least one public forum/workshop will be held for each of the 12 vision statements, bringing together organizations and people who are ready to get involved.

Converting the **Community COMPASS** vision into action will occur through collaboration of public, private, civic, and institutional groups. COMPASS Implementation Teams will prioritize strategies and create action plans for achieving the adopted goals and objectives contained within the Vision. They will be aided by research reports covering each

of the vision statements. These individual reports will lay the groundwork for an overall State of the County analysis by outlining conditions, trends, opportunities and resources for achieving Hamilton County's Vision. The Implementation Teams will facilitate the dialogue that is necessary for success. Part of their charge is to identify performance indicators to track whether initiatives are having the desired outcomes and whether those outcomes are sustainable. As issues, trends and recommendations are analyzed and refined, **Community COMPASS** itself will evolve to meet the vision of its citizens and government leaders.

Goals and Objectives

1. ASSURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- 1.1 Create a quality of life that attracts and retains the young, skilled and entrepreneurial people, including a "24-hour Downtown Cincinnati" where people can live, work and play.
- 1.2 Build a strong cluster of attractions in arts, culture, sports and entertainment for residents and visitors of diverse backgrounds.
- 1.3 Develop a globally competitive and diversified economy that: is on the cutting edge of emerging technologies, supports emerging industries, encourages entrepreneurial activities, and maintains and strengthens existing business and industry.
- 1.4 Attract and retain business and industries that provide good-paying jobs for a diverse spectrum of County residents.
- 1.5 Increase emphasis on and support for university research that leads to new business development.
- 1.6 Develop a strong linkage between all levels of education and workforce needs, including employee retraining, educational training, and life skills programs that: matches workforce supply with demand, provides the non-college bound student with employment options, achieves employment preparedness, and results in a regional commitment to education beyond 12 years.

2. BUILD COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING

- 2.1 Create the necessary structure and relationships for effective and efficient coordination of countywide governance, that works pro-actively and cooperatively across political and school district boundaries with elected, appointed, and community leaders, and all citizens.
- 2.2 Develop a system of collaborative governmental decision-making that enables a countywide development framework, producing well-planned, controlled growth that balances investments in downtown, neighborhoods and communities with preservation of open space and natural areas, and that address obstacles to achieving such growth.
- 2.3 Encourage and facilitate public input, throughout the planning and decision-making process, which leads to improved public decision-making and improved public involvement, with buy-in from all sectors of the County including citizens.
- 2.4 Foster a strong sense of countywide community that engages all citizens (including youth), encourages volunteerism, and makes full use of our social capital in County and local decision-making.
- 2.5 Enhance an accessible and open system of government to assure ethical and effective decision-making.

3. EMBRACE DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

- 3.1 Encourage and maintain clean, safe, inclusive, accessible, communities that foster open communication.
- 3.2 Promote health and longevity for all residents of Hamilton County by providing opportunities for equal access to preventative and restorative health and health-related services, and other social and community services.
- 3.3 Promote quality, educational opportunities in safe learning environments, and opportunities for students to gain cross-cultural experience and knowledge at all education levels.
- 3.4 Increase the availability of affordable recreational, social and cultural opportunities that appeal to the diverse population of Hamilton County.
- 3.5 Welcome diversity in our institutions and in all levels of government (legislative, judicial and executive/administrative).
- 3.6 Promote regional solutions to regional issues such as affordable housing, social services, public transportation and mobility.

4. BALANCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1 Preserve, restore, and manage natural resources so as to enhance the unique character of the County.
- 4.2 Plan and manage growth by seeking regional cooperation, fostering neighborhood-focused development, encouraging revitalization of existing neighborhoods, and preserving open space, while incorporating citizen input in the decision-making process.
- 4.3 Strengthen investment, particularly reinvestment, in order to balance development in downtown, suburbs, and rural areas, using existing infrastructure to reduce costs.
- 4.4 Develop attractive, economical, multi-modal public transportation coordinated with planning and development of roads, housing and business locations in order to better connect people to their jobs, services, and natural and cultural resources.
- 4.5 Plan and maintain a comprehensive infrastructure system, that is coordinated with development, constructed with consideration of the impact on the built and natural environments, and that supports neighborhood centers.



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Planning Partnership
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Kettering Foundation
Leadership Cincinnati Alumni Association
Charter Research Institute
Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce
Fifth Third Bank
Time Warner Cable
Miller-Valentine Group

Community COMPASS Steering Team

Co-Chair Jim Wuenker
Co-Chair Jacquelyn McCray

The Vision For Hamilton County's Future Is Based On Research And Recommendations Submitted By:

The Community Values Survey
(1158 respondents)

The Community Forums
(800 participants)

The Goal Writing Workshop
(34 participants)

The Countywide Town Meeting
(1300 participants)

The COMPASS Action Teams
(12 Teams; 301 participants)

The Team Leaders Forum
(35 participants)

The COMPASS Steering Team
(81 Participants)

Planning Partnership Jurisdiction Representatives and Affiliate Representatives

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